



TESTIMONY OF
HOSPICE OF SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT

BEFORE THE LEGISLATURE'S PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
10:00 AM, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2007
ROOM 1D, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

Good morning. My name is Maureen Collins. I am the Director of Clinical Services for Hospice of Southeastern Connecticut. With me today is Deberey Hinchey who is the Director of Compliance for Hospice of Southeastern Connecticut. We are here today to testify in support of House Bill 6699 An Act Authorizing Bonds Of The State For Expansion Of Hospice Southeastern Connecticut.

Hospice of Southeastern Connecticut is the only hospice that has been serving New London County for over 20 years. Our mission is to provide quality end of life care that respects the uniqueness of each patient. We have cared over 5,000 patients in the last 20 years.

Our value statement includes support for the dignity of everyone involved in our care, the responsible management of finite resources that provides for our future ability to fulfill our mission and to be a strong local community presence.

Our strategic plan includes moving to a gifted parcel of land which will increase our accessibility and visibility to the community. Passage of HB 6699 would help us to continue our history of providing the highest quality end of life medical care.

It will also enable us to continue to provide support to our patients and families for the financial burdens that often are a component of living with a terminal illness. For example, we have paid rents, mortgage payments, car payments. Major illness affects patients and their families. The ability to work, to finance their living arrangements and to feed their families all are affected. Because of our fundraising raising efforts we have been able to cover these un-reimbursable expenses but it is becoming increasingly difficult due to the ever increasing costs of running a health care agency.

In Connecticut there are an increasing number of individuals without health care insurance. It is our mission not to deny access to hospice home care because of a lack of medical insurance.

Serving New London County since 1985

Bereavement services are a part of every hospice program. Hospice Southeastern Connecticut has a strong commitment to provide bereavement support to non-hospice bereaved in the community. Our bereavement program provides a specialized supportive service unlike any other program offered in New London County. Our community services address the issues of loss and grief and are provided free of charge to the community. These programs provide support to all age groups, address individualized losses and provide support and education

This building will be a center for the day to day operations of Hospice Southeastern Connecticut and for community bereavement and hospice education. In the United States only about 1/3 of eligible patients elect a hospice benefit. Our plan for the future is to expand our educational efforts to the medical community and to reach out to the community at large so that more patients and their families benefit from the quality end of life care that we are able to provide.

Hospice of Southeastern Connecticut needs your help to continue to provide the highest quality end of life care. Passage of HB 6699 will allow us to increase the services that we have provided for 20 years. Our goal is to continue to provide hospice home care to patients and families and not to turn anyone away. HB 6699 will help us meet that goal.

This completes my testimony, thank you for your consideration.